

A genetic factor causing the preinduction of flowering in the main culm in day-neutral and short-day maize was observed previously by Brawn (MNL 39). This characteristic derived from Gaspé Flint was merely transferred to teosinte in my cultures. Northern teosinte was selected among the progeny from a backcross to teosinte of the hybrid Guerrero teosinte x Gaspé Flint. A similar project using Chalco teosinte rather than Guerrero teosinte did not yield the desired results, probably because of the heavier load of modern maize germplasm borne by Chalco teosinte.

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2. A warning on the possible hazards of northern teosinte.

Distribution of my recently created stock of northern teosinte has been made to a number of agronomists interested in developing a new forage-silage plant and to botanists interested in the maize-teosinte relationship in the United States, in South America and in Africa. Because this teosinte is as resistant to Atrazine as is maize, its escape in areas where this herbicide is the common means of weed control in maize fields may create a problem as it already has in my own corn field. I have not as yet observed it to be spread by birds although if this comes about, we may have a "Frankenstein monster" to contend with. Birds are known to feed on teosinte in Guatemala.

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3. A comparison between the chromosome 4 syndrome of Zea and the Q segment of Triticum (wheat).

A considerable length of chromosome 4 in Zea, estimated to include the whole short arm as marked by the Su locus, is known to control a group of floral characteristics which separate maize from teosinte (Mangelsdorf and Reeves, 1958). Although in some respects its action is similar to that of the "Q segment" which separates normal Triticum vulgare from its speltoid mutants, apparently it is much longer in terms of gene linkages or map units. The Q segment is described as a short block of closely linked genes, sometimes called a supergene, which controls the development of several separate floral characters. In both cases there